

# YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

<b>Title:</b> Solicitation by Vendors Relative to Payroll Deductions <b>Next Annual Review Date:</b> 09/20/2012	<b>Type:</b> A. Administrative <b>Sub Type:</b> 2. Personnel <b>Number:</b> A.2.39
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<b>References:</b> La. R.S. 49:950 et seq. and La. R.S. 42:455; Division of Administration's Office of Uniform State Payroll (OSUP) Memorandum No. 2003-50; Louisiana Administrative Code Title 4, Part III, Chapter 1, Section 127; and YS Policy A.2.38 "Ethics for Public Employees: Nepotism, Prohibited Contractual Relations, Gifts, Ethics Opinions"	
<b>STATUS: Approved</b>	
<b>Approved By:</b> Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	<b>Date of Approval:</b> 09/20/2011

## I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La. R.S. 36:405, and the following:

- A. In accordance with La. R.S. 49:950 et seq. and La. R.S. 42:455 et seq., the Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of State Uniform Payroll (OSUP) adopted a rule amending the regulations governing payroll deductions. The rule defines, clarifies and establishes parameters for vendor participation.
- B. Louisiana Administrative Code Title 4, Part III, Chapter 1, Section 127 "Department/Agency Responsibility", parts A and B.

Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

## II. PURPOSE:

To ensure consistency and uniformity throughout Youth Services (YS) regarding solicitation by Private-Party Vendors (PPVs) and Supplemental Benefits Solicitation. (Note: Supplemental benefits solicitation is a privilege, not a requirement. This privilege may be rescinded for those who do not comply with this policy.)

## III. APPLICABILITY:

All employees of YS. Unit Heads are responsible and accountable for the enforcement of this policy, including the procedures set forth herein.

## IV. DEFINITIONS:

**Office of Group Benefits (OGB)** - The Office of Group Benefits (OGB) is an agency of the State of Louisiana within the Office of the Governor, Division of Administration. OGB is authorized by statute to provide health and accidental benefits and life insurance to State employees, retirees and their dependents.

**Office of Statewide Uniform Payroll (OSUP)** - Implements and maintains requirements for the statewide payroll system.

**Private-Party Vendors (PPVs)** - Any person, company, business or firm conducting business as a sole-proprietorship, corporation or partnership (other than a duly authorized contract vendor or service provider) which sells or trades products, merchandise, wares and/or services.

**SED-4** - payroll deduction authorization form.

**Supplemental Benefits Solicitation** - Benefits such as health, life, disability, dental and legal services offered to employees through payroll deduction that have been approved and assigned codes by OSUP. This does not include any products offered by the Office of Group Benefits (OGB). These products will be coordinated by OGB.

**Unit Head** - Deputy Secretary, Facility Directors and Regional Managers.

**Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinators** - Youth Services' staff in the facilities and field offices responsible for scheduling time, date and meeting places for solicitation visits.

**YS Central Office** - Offices of the Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary, Deputy Undersecretary, Chief of Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretaries and their support staff.

**YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator** - Youth Services' staff responsible for coordinating the supplemental vendors who request permission to solicit approved products and coordinates solicitation issues for YS.

## **V. POLICY:**

It is the Deputy Secretary's policy to allow supplemental benefits solicitation only by companies (vendors) who have been approved for payroll deduction by the Office of State Uniform Payroll (OSUP) and have a current payroll deduction code. Private-Party Vendors (PPVs) shall receive such authorization prior to conducting, selling or soliciting business at any office or unit of YS.

**EXCEPTION:** This policy does not apply to any of the products that are coordinated through the Office of Group Benefits. Any other exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

**VI. PROCEDURES:**

**A. Private-Party Vendors (PPVs)**

**1. YS Central Office**

- a. The Central Office Human Resources Director shall designate a staff member as the YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator to be responsible for coordinating the supplemental vendors who request permission to solicit approved products and coordinate solicitation issues for Central Office.
- b. All PPVs shall be directed to the YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator. The vendor shall be required to show proof of business, as well as personal identification. The YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator shall verify the information. The YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator and the vendor shall be required to sign the desk log in order for the vendor to obtain admittance to the Central Office.

**2. YS Units**

- a. Facility Directors and Regional Managers shall designate a staff member as the Unit's Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator to be responsible for coordinating the supplemental vendors who request permission to solicit approved products and coordinate solicitation issues for their respective locations.
- b. Facility Directors and Regional Managers shall develop procedures regarding solicitation using the above criteria.
- c. A copy of these procedures shall be forwarded to the appropriate Deputy Assistant Secretary.

**B. Supplemental Benefits Solicitation**

1. The Vendor's Louisiana Sales Coordinator shall determine which representative will visit a proposed site.
2. Supplemental benefits vendors wishing to solicit shall have a payroll deduction code with OSUP. The service or product being offered shall be the specific service or product that received approval for solicitation by OSUP.

3. The YS Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator shall determine if the vendor is offering an approved product and shall have the Unit Supplemental Benefits Coordinator contact the vendor representative to schedule the date, time and place for the visit in the appropriate facility/field office. The vendor shall remain in the designated area as set forth by the Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator. The vendor is not allowed to visit in areas where employees work without prior approval.
4. Each vendor shall be allowed up to two solicitation visits during the open enrollment period each year. Two visits are allowed to assure all employees have a chance to visit. Solicitation visits are authorized visits of individual vendors. Vendors are only allowed to solicit pre-approved products.
5. The YS/Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator shall communicate to all employees in the respective work sites the date, time and location of the vendor's visit. Communication may be via e-mail, intranet systems, posters on bulletin boards, etc. The communication shall inform employees of the following:
  - a. Employees may only visit with the vendors during their break and lunch periods, before or after work or during a special time period established and approved by the agency. Employees unable to complete their business with the vendor during the allotted times shall conclude the business outside of working hours. These offerings are completely voluntary, but employees electing to participate shall have their premiums paid through payroll deduction.
  - b. Although YS allows authorized vendors to present their services and products to employees, YS makes no endorsement of any offering.
6. The YS/Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator may post promotional materials provided by the vendor along with the agency's announcement [Attachment A.2.39 (b)]. The vendor may also provide materials to employees who elect to meet with the vendor during YS' approved solicitation visit. Vendor promotional materials shall not be distributed by any other means within any location of YS without prior approval by the Deputy Secretary, his/her designee or a Unit Head.

7. Giving away items/gifts of monetary value to state employees is strictly against the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics and is prohibited by the Office of State Uniform Payroll. The only allowable giveaways are promotional items with no substantial resale value and food and drink that the employees consume while the vendor or vendor representative is present.
8. Upon request from a vendor for "on-site" solicitation, the YS/Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator shall provide the Vendor's Louisiana Sales Coordinator with a copy of this policy and obtain a signed acknowledgement [Attachment A.2.39 (a)] from the vendor representative before allowing access to the site. A facsimile copy is acceptable.
9. According to OSUP policy, payroll deduction authorization forms (SED-4's) shall be signed by the vendor representative and the employee unless otherwise directed by the OSUP. Any changes or corrections to an employee's supplemental policy or premiums, due to an SED-4 being completed incorrectly by the vendor representative, shall be handled between the vendor and the employee by all reasonable means (letter, phone, agency or home visit). YS shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions on the part of the vendor or the vendor's representative, but will assist if necessary, in obtaining a signed SED-4 if the vendor has exhausted all other means. OSUP will also assist in this process if necessary.
  - a. No entries, changes or corrections shall be entered into YS payroll system without an SED-4 signed by the representative and the employee unless otherwise directed by OSUP.
  - b. No cancellations requested by the vendor shall be entered into YS payroll system without an SED-4 signed by the representative and the employee unless otherwise directed by OSUP.

- c. No cancellations of all products with a vendor requested by the employee shall be entered into YS payroll system without a written dated statement from the employee. The employee shall be instructed to forward a copy of the letter to the vendor. If an employee, who has more than one product with a vendor, wishes to cancel only one product with that vendor, the employee shall be directed to the vendor directly to cancel per an updated, signed SED-4.
- d. For situations in which a correction to an SED-4 results in no change in total semi-monthly premiums (no increase or decrease), the employee's signature is not required, but a copy of the SED-4 with a letter of explanation shall be sent to the employee and YS/Unit Supplemental Benefits Solicitation Coordinator.

**Previous Regulation/Policy Number:** A.2.39

**Previous Effective Date:** 10/10/2005



**Attachments/References:** [A.2.39 \(a\) Vendor's Receipt of Policy.docx](#)



[A.2.39 \(b\) Notification Supplemental Benefits Solicitation.docx](#)